



## CENTRAL VALLEY JOINT VENTURE

### Conserving Bird Habitat in California's Central Valley

September 23, 2011

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Audubon California  
California Waterfowl  
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Agency  
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US Geological Survey  
USDA Natural Resources  
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Mr. Phil Isenberg, Chair  
Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Analysis of Delta Plan Impacts on Pacific Flyway Habitat in the Delta,  
Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys

Dear Chairman Isenberg:

California contains considerable areas of land that provide habitat for species migrating along the Pacific Flyway in the Delta, the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley. These lands, which include National Wildlife Refuges, State Wildlife Areas, managed wetlands and rice lands, also provide valuable habitat for resident terrestrial species including several listed species under the federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act. We are committed to the protection of these lands and the habitat they provide. If the lands do not receive water of adequate quantity and quality, their habitat values will be lost.

As work progresses on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Plan, we are keenly interested in how the Delta Stewardship Council plans to include analysis of impacts on water diversions and water availability, both within and outside of the Delta, necessary for refuge water supply, managed wetlands and other land uses that provide valuable habitat for both migrating and resident species. As you know, these areas are of international significance to the migrating birds traveling to and from other countries.

It is our hope that the Delta Plan and related EIR will include analysis of the impact policies and recommendations contained in the Plan will have on the water supplies necessary to maintain these valuable habitat lands. The

habitat values these water supplies facilitate are described in greater detail in the Central Valley Joint Venture 2006 Implementation Plan (<http://www.centralvalleyjointventure.org/science>). We would expect this analysis would include the impacts of policies and recommendations contained in Chapter 4, A More Reliable Water Supply for California (including the recommendation to "Update Delta Flow Requirements") as well as Chapter 5, Restore the Delta Ecosystem.

For decades, considerable time and resources have been dedicated to the protection and enhancement of habitat in the Delta and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys for birds and other terrestrial species. We are concerned that all of these efforts could be negatively impacted by some actions being discussed to address ecosystem problems in the Delta. This is more likely to occur if the Delta Plan and EIR do not include analysis of the potential impacts of policies and recommendations on the availability of water supplies for these important lands in the Central Valley.

The staff of our Joint Venture together with many of our non-governmental partners offers our help to you in this effort.

Sincerely,



Erik Vink  
Management Board Chairman

cc: Central Valley Joint Venture Management Board  
Randy Fiorini  
Gloria D. Gray  
Patrick Johnston  
Felicia Marcus  
Hank Nordhoff  
Don Nottoli  
Joe Grindstaff  
Terry Macaulay